



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
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THINK FOOD

Shipment 3

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USDA FOODS INVENTORY CONTROL

Schools should periodically check inventories to be sure that all USDA Foods are being used in a timely manner. The most basic rule of inventory management is first-in-first-out (FIFO). To achieve an acceptable level of accuracy cases or individual cans/packages should be marked with the date they are received.



An important rule for inventory management is adjusting orders carefully to reflect your level of usage. When ordering USDA Foods order only an amount that can be used promptly. Excessive inventory increases the risk of products going out of condition.

Be sure to store foods properly since storage conditions can have a significant impact on the quality of food products. The same product will last for different periods of time depending on the temperature of the storeroom, the humidity level, and air circulation.

Dry foods should be stored off the floor and away from contact with walls and ceilings. Freezer temperatures should be checked periodically to insure foods remain frozen until used.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Come to the OPI School Nutrition Programs USDA Foods Fair sponsored by Food Distribution, the Cooperative Purchase Program and Team Nutrition. The fair will take place October 20-21, 2011. Packets containing information regarding fair activities along with the registration form have been mailed to all foodservice managers.



Registration forms should be mailed to the Office of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Programs, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501. Online registration can be done on the OPI School Nutrition Web site at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/index.html#gpm1_2.

The fair is free but pre-registration is required. The deadline for registering is **October 14, 2011.**

If you have questions, contact the OPI School Nutrition Office at (406) 444-2501.

NATIONAL FARM-TO-SCHOOL MONTH

October has been designated as National Farm-to-School Month. Schools across the nation, as well as in Montana, are celebrating

by serving special meals featuring local farm fresh foods.

For information on what is happening in Montana during National Farm-to-School Month visit the OPI School Nutrition Web site and click on the special link labeled "October is Farm-to-School Month."

To learn more about buying local in Montana visit the Farm-to-School Web site at <http://www.farmtoschool.org/MT/> and for resources and information to help plan your Farm to School celebration checkout what is available at www.farmtoschoolmonth.org.



NEW

RESOURCES BY MONTANA TEAM NUTRITION

Montana Team Nutrition and the OPI School Nutrition Programs want to share some new and updated resources to help school foodservice professionals serve healthy meals in a pleasant atmosphere.

For new recipe ideas checkout **Montana's Healthy School Recipe Roundup** recipes at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/MTTeam.html. These tasty kid-friendly recipes come from Montana school cooks. Each recipe contains at least one USDA food ingredient and one locally grown/purchased food. The recipes feature whole grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables and are provided in 50 and 100 servings.

Also available are **The Eat Smart Play Hard Menu Calendars**. The calendars have been updated for the 2011-12 school year and provide an easy format for your school menus. The files are also available in PDF format for easier use. The new My Plate information is also included. This resource can be found at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/OToolkits.html.

Mealtime at school is much more than the good food served. **Comfortable Cafeterias** is another resource that focuses on the importance of pleasant and positive mealtimes. When school meals are pleasant, students eat better, learn better and behave better. The Comfortable Cafeterias video and the supporting materials, including handouts for school staff and posters for elementary school cafeterias, are available at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/MTTeam.html.

If you have questions about any of these resources or other Team Nutrition materials, contact Molly Stenberg at (406) 994-7217 or by e-mail at stenberg@montana.edu.



FALL ABC MEETING

The fall ABC Committee meeting will be held in Great Falls on October 20 in conjunction with the OPI School Nutrition Programs USDA Foods Processing Fair. This meeting will be a combined meeting for all three committee groups: Miles City, Missoula, and Great Falls. Information regarding the fair has been mailed. If you have questions, contact the OPI School Nutrition Programs at (406) 444-2501.